

and how that assistance will potentially increase subcontracting opportunities for the protégé firm, including subcontracting opportunities in industry categories where these entities are not dominant in the company's current subcontractor base; and

(7) A Letter of Intent signed by both parties. At a minimum, the Letter of Intent must include the stated commitment that the parties intend to enter into a mentor-protégé agreement under the NASA Program, that they intend to cooperate in the establishment of a suitable developmental assistance program to meet their respective needs, and that they agree to comply with the obligations in 1819.7215 and all other provisions governing the Program.

1819.7212 OSDBU review and approval process of agreement.

(a) The information specified in 1819.7211(b) is reviewed by the NASA OSDBU. This review will be completed no later than 30 days after receipt by the OSDBU. The OSDBU will provide a copy of the submitted information to the cognizant NASA technical program manager and contracting officer for a parallel review and concurrence.

(b) If OSDBU approves the application, then the mentor

(1) Negotiates an agreement with the protégé; and

(2) Submits an original and two (2) copies of the agreement to the OSDBU for approval by the NASA Mentor-protégé program manager, the NASA technical program manager, and the contracting officer.

(c) Upon agreement approval, the mentor may implement a developmental assistance program.

(d) An approved agreement will be incorporated into the mentor's contract with NASA. It should be added to the subcontracting plan in contracts which contain such a plan.

(e) If OSDBU disapproves the application, then the mentor may provide additional information for reconsideration. The review of any supplemental material will be completed within 30 days after receipt by the OSDBU. Upon finding deficiencies that NASA considers correctable, the OSDBU will notify the mentor and request informa-

tion to be provided within 30 days that may correct the deficiencies.

1819.7213 Agreement contents.

The contents of the agreement must contain:

(a) Names and addresses of mentor and protégé firms and a point of contact within both firms who will oversee the agreement;

(b) Procedures for the mentor firm to notify the protégé firm, OSDBU, and the contracting officer, in writing, at least 30 days in advance of the mentor firm's intent to voluntarily withdraw from the Program;

(c) Procedures for a protégé firm to notify the mentor firm in writing at least 30 days in advance of the protégé firm's intent to voluntarily terminate the mentor-protégé agreement. The mentor shall notify the OSDBU and the contracting officer immediately upon receipt of such notice from the protégé;

(d) A description of the type of developmental program that will be provided by the mentor firm to the protégé firm, to include a description of the subcontract work, and a schedule for providing assistance and criteria for evaluation of the protégé developmental success;

(e) A listing of the number and types of subcontracts to be awarded to the protégé firm;

(f) Program participation term;

(g) Termination procedures;

(h) Plan for accomplishing work should the agreement be terminated; and

(i) Other terms and conditions, as appropriate.

1819.7214 Developmental assistance.

The forms of developmental assistance a mentor can provide to a protégé include:

(a) Management guidance relating to—

(1) Financial management,

(2) Organizational management,

(3) Overall business management/planning, and

(4) Business development;

(b) Engineering and other technical assistance;

(c) Noncompetitive award of subcontracts under NASA contracts;

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(d) Progress payments based on costs. The customary progress payment rate for all NASA contracts with small disadvantaged businesses is 95 percent. This customary progress payment rate for small disadvantaged businesses may be used by prime contractors;

(e) Advance payments. While a mentor can make advance payments to its protégés who are performing as subcontractors, the mentor will only be reimbursed by NASA for these costs if advance payments have been authorized in accordance with 1832.409-170;

(f) Loans;

(g) Rent-free use of facilities and/or equipment; and

(h) Temporary assignment of personnel to the protégé for purpose of training.

[62 FR 36707, July 9, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 10572, Mar. 5, 1999]

1819.7215 Obligation.

(a) The mentor or protégé may voluntarily withdraw from the Program as mutually agreed by both mentor and protégé.

(b) Mentor and protégé firms will submit a "lessons learned" evaluation to the NASA OSDBU at the conclusion of each NASA contract subject to the approved Mentor-Protégé agreement.

[62 FR 36707, July 9, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 10572, Mar. 5, 1999]

1819.7216 Internal controls.

(a) The NASA OSDBU will manage the Program. Internal controls will be established by the OSDBU to achieve the stated program objectives (by serving as checks and balances against undesired actions or consequences) such as:

(1) Reviewing and evaluating mentor applications for realism, validity and accuracy of provided information;

(2) Reviewing any semi-annual progress reports submitted by mentors and protégés on protégé development to measure protégé progress against the master plan contained in the approved agreement.

(3) Site visits to NASA installation where mentor-protégé activity is occurring.

(b) NASA may terminate mentor-protégé agreements for good cause and

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exclude mentor or protégé firms from participating in the NASA program. These actions shall be approved by the NASA OSDBU. NASA shall terminate an agreement by delivering to the contractor a Notice specifying the reason for termination and the effective date. Termination of an agreement does not constitute a termination of the subcontract between the mentor and the protégé. A plan for accomplishing the subcontract effort should the agreement be terminated shall be submitted with the agreement as required in NFS 1819.7213(h).

[62 FR 36707, July 9, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 10572, Mar. 5, 1999]

1819.7217 Reports.

(a) Semi-annual reports shall be submitted by the mentor to the NASA Mentor-Protégé program manager, the NASA OSDBU, to include information as outlined in 1852.219-79(b).

(b) Protégés are encouraged to submit semi-annual reports to the OSDBU on Program progress pertaining to their mentor-protégé agreement. However, costs associated with the preparation of these reports are unallowable costs under Government contracts and will not be reimbursed by the Government.

(c) The NASA technical program manager shall include an assessment of the prime contractor's (mentor's) performance in the Mentor-Protégé Program in a quarterly 'Strengths and Weaknesses' evaluation report. A copy of this assessment will be provided to the OSDBU and the contracting officer.

(d) The NASA Mentor-Protégé program manager will submit semi-annual reports to the cognizant contracting officer regarding the participating prime contractor's performance in the Program for use in the award fee determination process.

[62 FR 36707, July 9, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 10572, Mar. 5, 1999]

1819.7218 Program review.

At the conclusion of each year in the Mentor-Protégé Program, the prime contractor and protégé, as appropriate, will formally brief the NASA OSDBU, the technical program manager, and